

NATIONAL SUMMIT ON SAFE SCHOOLS LEADERSHIP 2026

**Building Future-Ready Schools:
Leadership, Governance and
Safety Excellence**

 **23 July 2026**

 **LPS Auditorium,
PHD House, New Delhi**



**SAFE SCHOOLS
STRONG CHILDREN
SECURE FUTURES**

Together for every child, every school, every day.





STRATEGIC CONTEXT

India is home to over 1.5 million schools serving nearly 260 million students, the largest school-going population in the world. Yet despite this scale, school safety remains one of the most underfunded and under-governed dimensions of the education ecosystem. Recurring incidents of fire hazards, structural collapses, cyberbullying, student mental health crises, and inadequate emergency response mechanisms point to a systemic gap between policy intent and ground-level preparedness.

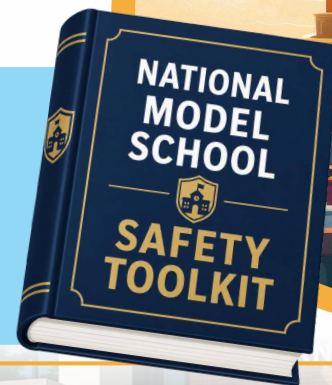
The challenge is no longer one of awareness; it is a challenge of leadership, institutionalization, and accountability. Isolated best practices exist across school systems, but they have not been translated into scalable, governance-backed frameworks. India urgently needs a structured national dialogue that moves the conversation from "what should be done" to "who is responsible, how it will be done, and how it will be sustained."

School safety is not merely a compliance requirement; it is a fundamental governance obligation and a prerequisite for quality education.

THE PHDCCI INITIATIVE

PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), as a national industry body with deep engagement across education, skill development, and public policy, is convening the National Summit on Safe Schools Leadership 2026. This Summit reflects PHDCCI's commitment to bridging industry expertise with public education challenges and to catalyzing action through high-level multi-stakeholder platforms.

A defining milestone of this initiative is the official launch of the NATIONAL MODEL SCHOOL SAFETY TOOLKIT, a landmark resource developed through structured consultations with education leaders, safety experts, school counsellors, administrators, and regulatory authorities. The Toolkit provides schools with a practical, actionable framework to institutionalize safety across physical, emotional, digital, and disaster-preparedness dimensions.



OBJECTIVES

- Catalyze a national policy conversation on leadership-driven school safety governance.
- Launch the National Model School Safety Toolkit and map its adoption pathway across school systems.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange among principals, policymakers, regulatory authorities, and safety experts.
- Forge actionable public-private partnerships to scale school safety infrastructure and capacity.
- Establish a National Network of School Safety Champions to sustain momentum beyond the Summit.
- Identify high-impact interventions to address emerging threats: cybersecurity, mental health, and climate-linked infrastructure risks.

OUTCOMES

- Official Launch of the National Model School Safety Toolkit
- Actionable Governance Roadmap for School Safety implementation
- Strengthened collaboration across MCD, Government, and Private school systems
- Public-Private Partnership framework for scaling safety infrastructure
- Enhanced leadership capacity among school heads and administrators

TARGET AUDIENCE



School Leaders

Principals, Vice-Principals, Administrative Heads from Government, MCD, Private, and Aided Schools



Policymakers & Regulators

Senior Officials from MoE, State Education Departments, CBSE, ICSE, and State Boards



Safety & Disaster Management

Fire Safety Officers, Civil Defence Experts, NDMA representatives and Emergency Response Professionals



Mental Health & Counselling

School Counsellors, Child Psychologists, and Student Welfare Specialists



Technology & EdTech

Cybersecurity Experts, EdTech Companies, Smart Infrastructure Providers



Civil Society & Community

Parent Associations, NGOs, Community Leaders, and Development Organizations

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Registration & Networking - 9:30 am - 10 am

Inaugural Session - 10 am – 11:30 am

Advancing the National School Safety Agenda: Leadership, Partnerships and Collective Action

The session will feature a high-level address on India's national school safety priorities, followed by the ceremonial release of the National Model School Safety Toolkit, a landmark resource that represents months of consultative development and signals a new era of structured safety governance in Indian schools.

Tea/Coffee Break & Networking - 11:30 am– 11:45 am

Technical Session I - 11:45 am – 12:45 pm

Institutionalizing School Safety: Leadership, Governance and Preparedness Frameworks

- Leadership responsibilities in creating safe school ecosystems
- Institutionalizing safety through policies, SOPs, and accountability frameworks
- Building a whole-school approach to physical, emotional, digital, and disaster safety
- Strengthening safety audits, risk assessment, and compliance mechanisms

Panel Discussion - 12:45 - 1:45 pm

Safe Schools for Every Child: Strengthening Partnerships among MCD, Government and Private Schools

- School safety challenges across MCD, Government, and Private school categories
- Best practices and success stories from municipal and government schools
- Community and parent engagement strategies in building safe school cultures
- Public-private partnership models for scaling school safety at system level

Networking Lunch - 1:45 pm – 2:30 pm

Technical Session II - 2:30 pm - 3:15 pm

Emerging Frontiers in School Safety: Cyber Threats, Mental Health and Climate Resilience

- Cyber safety in schools: protecting students from online predators, cyberbullying, and digital exploitation
- Building robust data privacy and device security frameworks in digitally-enabled classrooms
- Mental health as a safety imperative: integrating counselling, early-warning systems, and peer support into school governance
- Identifying and addressing student stress, self-harm risks, and social isolation — a leadership responsibility
- Climate and environmental safety: adapting school infrastructure for heat stress, flooding, and air quality risks

Technical Session III - 3:15 pm - 4 pm

From Awareness to Action: Technology, Data and Accountability for Safer Schools

- Digital school safety management systems: leveraging IoT, AI surveillance, and real-time alert infrastructure for campus security
- Building a national school safety data architecture: standardized metrics, incident reporting, and benchmarking across school types
- The role of EdTech in safety training: immersive simulations, VR-based evacuation drills, and gamified safety awareness for students
- Safety audits as governance tools: making third-party safety assessments mandatory, transparent, and actionable
- Accountability frameworks for school leadership: defining roles, responsibilities, and consequences for safety non-compliance

Closing Remarks & Vote of Thanks - 4 pm - 4:15 pm



About PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry

PHDCCI has been working as a catalyst for the promotion of Indian industry, trade and entrepreneurship for the past 121 years. It is a forward looking, proactive and dynamic PAN-India apex organization. As a partner in progress with industry and government, PHDCCI works at the grass roots level with strong national and international linkages for propelling progress, harmony and integrated development of the Indian economy.

PHDCCI, acting as the “Voice of Industry & Trade” reaching out to more than 1,50,000 large, medium and small industries, has forged ahead leveraging its legacy with the industry knowledge across multiple sectors to take Indian Economy to the next level.

At the global level, we have been working with the Embassies and High Commissions in India and overseas to bring in the International Best Practices and Business Opportunities.

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